UN

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/8
31 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

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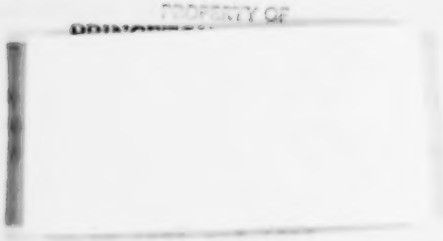

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 8 - Viet Nam

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02349

II.8 VIET NAM

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, almost 13,000 Vietnamese asylum-seekers had returned to Viet Nam from first-asylum countries in South-East Asia, Hong Kong and Japan. Among them 357 persons returned under the Orderly Return Programme (ORP) from Hong Kong. From the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA) in 1989 until the end of 1994, 69,240 persons returned to Viet Nam. Another 3,805 persons returned to the country between 1 January and the end of May 1995.

2. In addition, some 40,000 Cambodians of ethnic Vietnamese origin have settled spontaneously in the eight provinces in southern Viet Nam.

3. Among the Cambodian refugees 50 per cent were adult males, 35 per cent adult females and some 15 per cent were children. The Vietnamese returnees comprised 50 per cent adult males, 30 per cent adult females and 20 per cent children.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. A total of 5,049 Cambodian refugees in Son Be Province and Ho Chi Minh City were officially granted local settlement in Viet Nam in 1994. Regulations governing their long-term residence are being drawn up by the local authorities. UNHCR assistance for this group of refugees was completed and phased out on 30 September 1994.

5. UNHCR continued to provide assistance to the Vietnamese returnees in the form of cash grants, vocational training and rehabilitation/improvement of basic infrastructure in the areas where the returnees are concentrated.

6. UNHCR financed 109 micro projects in 43 provinces during 1994.

7. Owing to the slow rate of return of Vietnamese nationals from countries of asylum in the region, the original plan to receive 30,000 persons in 1995 will be adjusted downward to 15,000.

8. The Government of Viet Nam concluded Memoranda of Understanding on the ORP with the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Philippines in January and February 1995 respectively. UNHCR is a party to these memoranda and has a facilitating function within the context of its mandate and designated role.

9. During 1994, UNHCR increased its monitoring capacity and seven international staff were assigned as monitoring officers to ensure safe return and to facilitate reintegration of the Vietnamese returnees into their former communities.

10. Repeated allegations of mistreatment were investigated and no substantiated cases of persecution or serious harassment were found. The Government of Viet Nam has complied with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with UNHCR in 1988.

11. A group of prominent representatives from US non-governmental organizations (NGOs) visited returnees in Viet Nam in early 1995 and were satisfied with their reintegration and general situation. A major effort was made to accelerate the return of unaccompanied minors before the phase-out of the Nordic Assistance to Repatriated Vietnamese (NARV) at the end of April 1995. A total of 3,830 minors were assisted while another 344 minors have not yet returned from the first-asylum countries, mainly Hong Kong.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

12. Pursuant to the recommendation of the fifth and the sixth Steering Committee of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, UNHCR will continue to monitor and provide assistance to Vietnamese nationals who return from the camps in the first-asylum countries in South-East Asia, Japan and Hong Kong.

13. The assistance will include cash grants and contributions to micro-projects to rehabilitate and improve infrastructure in the areas that receive the returnees.

14. The monitoring of the Vietnamese who have already returned and those who will do so early next year will be the main activity of UNHCR in Viet Nam in 1996.

(b) Proposed budget for 1996

(i) Special Programmes

15. **CPA**: Due to recent developments in a major resettlement country, the prospects for voluntary repatriation in 1995 are now unclear. The plan for 1996 will therefore have to be tentative and adjustments may be made. Given that the CPA in the first-asylum countries (except Hong Kong) should have been completed by the end of 1995, the initial budget proposal is based on covering monitoring costs and contributions to micro-projects to improve the quality of life for the returnees. Depending on developments and the rate of implementation of voluntary repatriation and the ORP in the second half of 1995, and possible changes in the completion date of the CPA, the 1996 budget may need to be revised at a later stage.

(c) Implementing partners

16. UNHCR continues to provide reintegration assistance through the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs to various provinces to which the Vietnamese have returned. Through the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR provides financial assistance to cover the costs of delegations sent to interview Vietnamese

in the camps in first-asylum countries in South-East Asia, Hong Kong and Japan. Care and maintenance costs of returnees in transit centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and transport costs of returnees from transit centres to the provinces and districts of origin are also covered. Care for unaccompanied minors was provided through NARV. This programme came to an end on 30 April 1995. The Women's Union of Hai Phong implemented Vocational Training for Women. The Viet Nam Red Cross provided assistance to mental health cases and other vulnerable returnees. The European Community-International Programme (ECIP) provided reintegration assistance through the implementation of credit schemes, vocational training and job creation activities, which came to an end, as scheduled, on 30 November 1994. A limited bridging credit scheme programme was continued after 30 November until the end of June 1995. The Japan International Volunteer Centre (JIVC) completed the project for an automobile workshop and training centre in Hai Phong and the facility was handed over to the Government at the end of 1994. In 1995, JIVC will complete its three-year programme for auto-mechanic and vocational training in Ben Tre province.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates mainly due to vacancies in several posts in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. The revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates mainly because of the discontinuation of a Programme Officer post and two General Service posts. Non-staff costs are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. The 1996 requirements are lower than the 1995 revised requirements principally due to gradual scaling down of the operation in the ongoing activities of the Office in Viet Nam. Staffing levels and non-staff costs are marginally lower than in 1995. A reduced provision is made for procurement of non-expendable property.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN VIET NAM

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
0.5 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
347.4	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
2.0	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
349.9	0.0	0.0	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	0.0
349.9	0.0	0.0	TOTAL (1)	0.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
10,761.7	11,705.9	16,002.7	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	2,000.0
1,563.2	1,535.5	1,430.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,316.0
27.5	246.4	238.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	224.8
–	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
45.3	55.0	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
12,397.7	13,542.8	17,672.5	TOTAL (2)	3,540.8
12,747.6	13,542.8	17,672.5	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	3,540.8

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes